Pending projects from Maharashtra and Assam

809. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act are pending with the Government from the States of Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) the reasons for this pendency; and

(c) the steps to be taken to expedite the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) As on 31.10.96, no proposal from Assam is pending with the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 31 proposals from Maharashtra are pending with the Ministry and are being expenditiously processed in accordance with the procedures envisaged under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules & Guidelines. As soon as all the formalities are completed, final decision would be taken.

Irregularities committed by Management of Private Schools

810. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of irregularities committed by the managements of private schools; and

(b) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The Government have been receiving communications about the alleged irregularities committed by the managements of Private schools. The complaints received in this regard are sent to the respective State/UT Government for appropriate action. Similarly, in the case of Private Schools affiliated to the All India Boards like the Central Board of Secondary Education & the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), the complaints are referred to these Bodies for examination and necessary action.

Since there is no Central Act of School Education in the Country, the role of the Union Government in the matter of regulating school education in the country is only recommendatory/advisory in nature.

Dlegal mining in protected areas

811. DR/Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal mining leases granted within the boundaries of national parks and wild life sanctuaries which had been renewed even after the area had been declared as 'protected';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) For diversion of forest, land whether falling in a wildlife sanctuary/national park of outside, in case of grant/renewal'of mining leases prior approval of the Central Government is required under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Proposals of the State Governments received in this regard have been decided in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and on the basis of recommendations of the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden and/or recommendations of ForestAdvisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Further in all such cases the approval accorded by the Ministry is subject to the condition that the legal status of forest land will remain unchanged. The question of grant/ renewal of illegal mining leases by this Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, therefore, does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.